



# ONE-WOMAN SHOW STEALS PROMUSICA ARIZONA SPOTLIGHT

*The Desert Advocate - Cave Creek, AZ*

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**Geno Lawrenzi**

ANTHEM-- Boulder Creek High School Performing Arts Center, ProMusica Arizona and a multi-faceted actress named Kate Campbell Stevenson put on a show Saturday night that Anthem and surrounding communities won't easily forget.

**Stevenson, whose 25 years of experience in music, theater and education have made her comfortable with a live audience, stole the show with her *Women: Back to the Future* performance when she portrayed Abigail Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, Marian Anderson and Rachel Carson before a packed house.**

But her artistic performance was matched by ProMusica Arizona Chorale and Orchestra as it performed show tunes, a Richard Rodgers medley, "King Herod's Song" from "Jesus Christ Superstar," tunes from Irving Berlin and a rousing patriotic finish featuring such stirring selections as "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again," "Over There," "The Marine's Hymn" and "America the Beautiful."

Using 110 performers ranging in age from four to 74, the group showed community theater at its best, along with a few imperfections in this reviewer's opinion.

Director Kevin Kozacek apologized for the lighting and the lack of an orchestra pit. Personally, I would have liked to have seen more elaborate costuming instead of the white t-shirts and black slacks that occasionally gave the production a junior college look.

There is no question the audience appreciated the talent, both musically and vocally. They also liked the specialty performers like tap dancers Sue Koehl and Janne Maitem.

Stevenson, who has appeared in 30 Broadway musicals, including "Camelot," "My Fair Lady" and "The King and I," chose the "can do" theme to give life to four outstanding women whose lives changed the way Americans think about themselves.

In a personal message to the audience, Stevenson said, "(This Show) began in 1994 as a personal quest to inspire my own children and their peers to hold fast to their dreams and provide courageous role-models." She has played across the rural South, in fancy prep schools in Los Angeles, county fairs, The National Theatre and the White House.

Changing on stage in full view of the audience, Stevenson portrayed Abigail Adams, the wife of John Quincy Adams who became First Lady of the United States; Eleanor Roosevelt, another First Lady who served as delegate to the United Nations; black opera singer Marian Anderson; and Rachel Carson, a scientist, environmentalist and author who wrote "Silent Spring."

Ticket Sales to the public and donations from patrons raised over \$15,000 from Saturday's three performances. The funds will be used to buy portable choral risers, music and other needed equipment to help ProMusica Arizona put on future productions and to assist the Performing Arts Department at Boulder Creek High School. The evening show followed two earlier matinee performances.

Kozacek, president and founding director of the Anthem-based chorale and orchestra, said the organization is "always looking for dedicated member in the choir and orchestra." For more information or to become a sponsor or patron, call (623) 551 8327 or (623) 555-5045. The organization's website is <http://www.promusicaaz.org>.